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(c) whether any report has been received by the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities from the Election Officer, Kayalpatnam, in connexion with the local boards election held there on 15th October 1932 as regards the effect of insistence of one of the male candidates that Gosha women voters should unveil their faces to him, and if so, what the report is, and whether the Government will be pleased to place the said report on the table of this House; and

(d) whether the Government have received any petition from the Muslim women voters of Kayalpatnam praying the Government to frame such rules as are necessary to enable them to exercise their franchise without unveiling their faces to males including candidates for election under any circumstances; and if so, what action has been taken by the Government on the same?

A.—(a) The Government have perused the judgment.

(b) Yes.

(c) A report was received by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards from the Election Officer. Government see no reason to place the report on the table.

(d) No.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the present rules as construed by the High Court decision actually deprive the Gosha women of their franchise?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" In the answer to the next question the hon. Member will find that Government are considering the question of revising the rules, wherever possible."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the introduction of purdah voting will be followed by abuses at election booths?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It is a difficult question to answer. There may possibly be abuses in some cases. The presiding officers appointed will do their duty."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I ask whether the hon. the Minister will take the Muslim members of this Council into confidence before the rules are finally approved and published?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" No objection to consult the Muslim members at that time."

Decision of the Madras High Court regarding the removal by Gosha women of their veil at the time of exercising their franchise.

* 185 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been called to the recent judgment of the Madras High Court in Mr. Bijli Sahib's election case containing reference to the right of the candidates at elections to insist upon the female electors exercising their franchise unveiling their faces for purposes of identification; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to take any action to overcome the effect of this decision, and if so, what action?

A.—(*a*) The Government have since perused the judgment referred to.

(*b*) The question of amending the rules for the election of members so as to enable women to exercise their franchise without the necessity to unveil their faces before men is engaging the attention of Government.

Medical Administration

Appointment of Demonstrators in the Vizagapatam Medical College.

* 186 *Q.*—Mr. A. Harischandrudu: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there are surplus men in the Madras Medical Service, provincial cadre;

(*b*) if so, how many;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Government created three posts of demonstrators in the Vizagapatam Medical College to be filled up temporarily by these surplus men till the retrenchment in the Madras Medical Service (provincial) is completed; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that three senior men were posted for these posts when there are surplus junior men in the cadre?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The strength of the Men's section of the Madras Medical Service (General Branch) has not yet been reduced as a measure of retrenchment. There are ten surplus officers if the strength of the section after reduction and the number of temporary posts and vacancies are taken into account.

(*c*) Yes. Assistant Surgeons have been posted to these demonstratorships as a measure of economy even though they are not intended for them.

(*d*) No. The Assistant Surgeons posted to the demonstratorships are not senior men.

Remuneration payable to a House Surgeon in the General Hospital, Madras.

* 187 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the remuneration paid to the House Surgeons in the Government General Hospital at Madras now is and what it was before the retrenchment was brought in;

(*b*) whether the reduction brought in this case was restored as in the case of other appointments;

(*c*) if so, from which date, and, if not, why not; and

(*d*) what the duties are of a House Surgeon in the Government General Hospital at Madras?